

FORM PTO-1300 (REV 10-84)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				01-763
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/05698		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE June 21, 2000		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 C.F.R.1.5) 10/031325
TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING AN OBLONG FOOD PRODUCT		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED July 14, 1999		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Christof Stimpfl				
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:				
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)</p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p> <p>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</p> <p>Applicant claims small entity status.</p>				

page 1 of 2

Express Mail No.:
EL398538418US

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deposited with the United States Postal Service as
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of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

(January 1995)

on January 10, 2002

(Date of Deposit)
Rachel Piscitelli
Name and Reg. No. of Attorney
Rachel Piscitelli
Signature
January 10, 2002
Date of Signature

US

10031325
531 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 JAN 2002

Anne US.II, page 2 PCT Applicant's Guide - Volume II - National Chapter - US

10/031325

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (37 CFR 1.492) 10/031325		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/05698	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 01-763
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17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$890.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)..... \$660.00

No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).. \$730.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... \$1040.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)..... \$92.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 890.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$ 130.00

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	11 -20 =		X \$18
Independent claims	2 -3 =		X \$84
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$270
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			\$ 1020.00
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).			\$ 510.00
SUBTOTAL =			\$ 510.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).			+
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =			\$ 510.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property			+
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =			\$ 510.00
			Amount to be refunded \$
			charged \$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 510.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

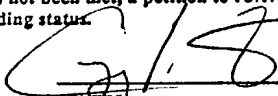
b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0184. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

GREGORY P. LAPOINTE
BACHMAN & LAPOINTE, P.C.
900 CHAPEL ST., SUITE 1201
NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2802

SIGNATURE

NAME
Gregory P. LaPointe
REGISTRATION NUMBER
28,395

Form PTO-1590 (REV 10-94) page 1 of 3

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on January 10, 2002

(Date of Deposit)

Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney

Signature

January 10, 2002

Date of Signature

10031325.051502

10/031325

531 Rec'd PCT 10 JAN 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Christof Stimpfl Docket No.: 01-763
Serial No.: Examiner :
Filed : Art Unit :
PCT No. : PCT/EP00/05698
IFD : June 21, 2000
For : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING AN OBLONG FOOD
PRODUCT

Suite 1201
900 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the above-identified application for United States patent,
please amend as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3,
characterized in that heat is applied to the shrinkable element
(3).

11. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 9,
characterized in that a heat source (4) is assigned to the casing
(1).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please add the following paragraph as a separate page after the claims.

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a method for producing an encased oblong food product, especially sausages. According to the invention, the food product, especially the sausage meat, is packed into a casing and the casing is squeezed together at points of separation located at determined lengths along the same. The point of separation is squeezed together by a self-contracting element assigned to the casing.

REMARKS

Amendments have been made to the claims to remove the multiple dependencies and an abstract has been added in order to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

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on January 10, 2002

(Date of Deposit)
Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney

Rachel Piscitelli

Signature

January 10, 2002

Date of Signature

Date: January 10, 2002

Express Mail No.:
EL398538418US

Respectfully submitted,

Christof Stimpfl

By

Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicant
Telephone - (203) 777-6628

10/031325

10 JAN 2002

Version with markings to show changes made to claims

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 [or 4], characterized in that heat is applied to the shrinkable element (3).

11. (Amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 9 [or 10], characterized in that a heat source (4) is assigned to the casing (1).

10/031325

1/PKTS

531 Rec'd PCT 10 JAN 2002

Method and arrangement for producing an elongated foodstuff

The invention relates to a method of producing an encased, elongated foodstuff, in particular sausages, a casing being filled with the foodstuff, in particular the sausage meat, and being compressed at a separating point in each case after a certain length.

Sausages are nowadays produced by a casing being filled with sausage meat, the casing being made of either plastic or natural sausage skin. As a rule, this casing has a considerable length, the casing being squeezed at certain intervals which correspond to a length of a sausage.

This is usually done by a metal ring which squeezes the casing together at a subsequent separating point.

A sausage string formed in such a way is then usually supplied to a store in which the sausage can mature. For example, it is also possible to suspend a sausage string in a smoking chamber or the like.

Before the sausage is then supplied to the consumer, it is in many cases to be cut off from the sausage string, which as a rule is done by automatic cutting machines in which cutting blades move and cut off the sausage from the sausage string at the separating point. The cutting-off is nowadays also possible with a laser beam.

It has proved to be a disadvantage with this method that it is only with great difficulty that the cutting blade or even the laser beam can be accurately guided in such a way that the metal ring is not also struck at intervals. In addition, for hygienic reasons, the connection between metal and, for example, natural sausage skin is not very desirable.

The object of the present invention is to develop a method and an arrangement of the abovementioned type, in which the metal ring at the separating point can be dispensed with.

This object is achieved by the compression of the separating point being effected by a self-constricting element assigned to the casing.

An essential feature of the present invention is that no metallic element is assigned any longer to the casing, and that, after the casing has been filled, no additional tool is applied to the casing, a factor which in the past repeatedly resulted in damage to the casing. The separating point is to be produced virtually automatically. In addition, the self-constricting element may be designed in such a way that no damage to the cutting tools whatsoever is produced during the severing.

In an exemplary embodiment, an elastic element, for example a tightly contracting rubber ring, may be put onto the casing at the separating point. This would mean that this rubber ring is not put onto the casing until after the filling, a factor which may well cause some difficulties from the technical point of

view. Provision is therefore made in a preferred exemplary embodiment for the self-constricting element to be made of a shrinkable material. There are many plastics which can shrink to a considerable extent, for example under the effect of heat, and can thus compress the casing at the separating point.

Consideration is also given within the scope of the invention for the casing, provided it is not a natural sausage skin, to be formed from a shrinkable material at the separating point. Even the entire casing could be made of shrinkable material, although it has to be ensured in this case that a corresponding heat source applies heat to the casing only at the point where shrinkage is desired.

Provided the self-constricting element is a ring resting on the casing, this ring may be open or closed. For example, an appropriately rigid plastic ring could also be designed as an open U which then wraps around the separating point during the shrinkage and compresses the separating point.

Further advantages, features and details of the invention follow from the description below of preferred exemplary embodiments and with reference to the drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows a plan view of part of an arrangement according to the invention for producing sausages;

Figure 2 shows a plan view of a sausage string with separating points.

Shown in figure 1 is a sausage casing which is preferably filled with sausage meat. The casing 1 is filled with the sausage meat accurately proportioned in grams, which is done nowadays with automatic filling machines.

Furthermore, the casing is squeezed at intervals in order to achieve a certain sausage length, so that a separating point 2 is obtained there. In this way, sausages 5 separated by the separating point 2 are obtained.

According to the invention, a ring 3 is pushed onto the sausage casing 1 at the level of the separating point 2 before, during or after the filling, this ring 3 being made of a shrinkable material in the preferred exemplary embodiment. Shrinkable plastics are known which can be constricted to a considerable extent for example under the effect of heat.

If heat is therefore applied to such a ring 3 from a heat source 4, squeezing of the separating point 2 takes place, as shown in figure 2.

Patent claims

1. A method of producing an encased, elongated foodstuff, in particular sausages (5), a casing (1) being filled with the foodstuff, in particular the sausage meat, and being compressed at a separating point (2) in each case after a certain length, characterized in that the compression of the separating point (2) is effected by a self-constricting element (3) assigned to the casing (1).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an elastic element is put onto the casing (1) at the separating point (2).

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a shrinkable element (3) is put onto the casing (1) at the separating point (2).

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that part of the casing (1) at the separating point (2) is designed as an elastic or shrinkable element.

5. The method as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that heat is applied to the shrinkable element (3).

6. An arrangement for producing an encased, elongated foodstuff, in particular sausages (5), from a casing (1) containing foodstuff, characterized in that a self-constricting element (3) is assigned to the casing (1) at predetermined intervals for achieving a separating point (2).
7. The arrangement as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the self-constricting element is a rubber ring.
8. The arrangement as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the rubber ring is pushed onto the casing (1).
9. The arrangement as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the self-constricting element is an open or closed ring (3) made of a shrinkable material, in particular plastic.
10. The arrangement as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the ring or partial ring is pushed onto the casing (1) or is part of the casing wall.
11. The arrangement as claimed in claim 9 or 10, characterized in that a heat source (4) is assigned to the casing (1).

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
25. Januar 2001 (25.01.2001)

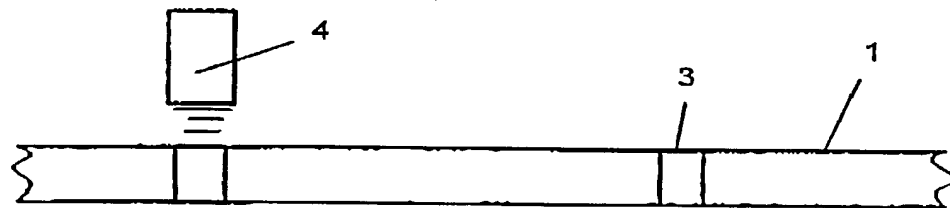
PCT

(10) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer
WO 01/05237 A1

- (51) Internationale Patentklassifikation⁷: A22C 11/10 (74) Anwalt: WEISS, Peter; Zeppelinstrasse 4, D-78234 Egen (DE).
- (21) Internationales Aktenzeichen: PCT/EP00/05698 (81) Bestimmungsstaaten (national): BR, US.
- (22) Internationales Anmeldedatum:
21. Juni 2000 (21.06.2000) (84) Bestimmungsstaaten (regional): europäisches Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
- (25) Einreichungssprache: Deutsch
- (26) Veröffentlichungssprache: Deutsch
- (30) Angaben zur Priorität:
199 32 836.6 14. Juli 1999 (14.07.1999) DE
- (71) Anmelder und
(72) Erfinder: STIMPFEL, Christof [DE/DE]; Höferweg 2, D-88267 Vogt (DE).
- Veröffentlicht:
— Mit internationalem Recherchenbericht.
— Vor Ablauf der für Änderungen der Ansprüche geltenden Frist; Veröffentlichung wird wiederholt, falls Änderungen eintreffen.
- Zur Erklärung der Zweibuchstaben-Codes, und der anderen Abkürzungen wird auf die Erklärungen ("Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations") am Anfang jeder regulären Ausgabe der PCT-Gazette verwiesen.

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING AN OBLONG FOOD PRODUCT

(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN UND VORRICHTUNG ZUM HERSTELLEN EINES LÄNGLICHEN LEBENSMITTELS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for producing an encased oblong food product, especially sausages (5). According to the invention, the food product, especially the sausage meat, is packed into a casing (1) and the casing is squeezed together at points of separation (2) located at determined lengths along the same. The point of separation (2) is squeezed together by a self-contracting element (3) assigned to the casing (1).

(57) Zusammenfassung: Bei einem Verfahren zum Herstellen eines umhüllten, länglichen Lebensmittels, insbesondere von Würsten (5), wird das Lebensmittel, insbesondere das Wurstbrät, in eine Hülle (1) eingefüllt und diese nach jeweils einer bestimmten Länge an einer Trennstelle (2) zusammengepresst. Das Zusammenpressen der Trennstelle (2) erfolgt durch ein der Hülle (1) zugeordnetes, sich selbst verengendes Element (3).

WO 01/05237 A1

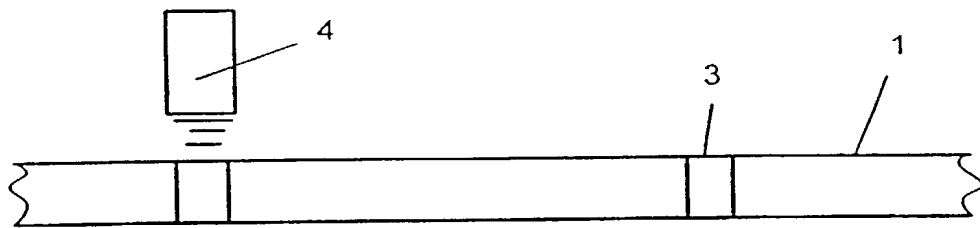


Fig. 1

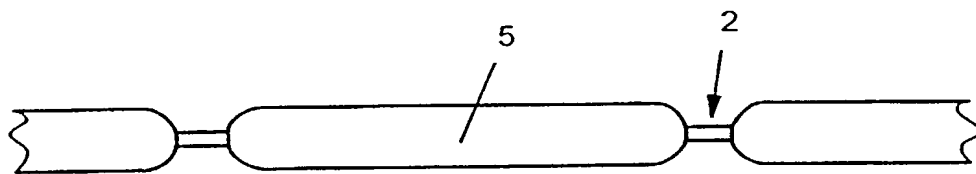


Fig. 2

Practitioner's Docket No. 01-763

PATENT

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION, OR C-I-P)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type:

(check one applicable item below)

- ☐ original.
- ☐ design.
- ☐ supplemental.

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

☒ national stage of PCT.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P.

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d) (continued prosecution application) for use of a prior nonprovisional application declaration in the continuation or divisional application being filed on behalf of the same or fewer of the inventors named in the prior application.

- ☐ divisional.
- ☐ continuation.

NOTE: Where an application discloses and claims subject matter not disclosed in the prior application, or a continuation or divisional application names an inventor not named in the prior application, a continuation-in-part application must be filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (application filing requirements — nonprovisional application).

☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims, an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PRODUCING AN OBLONG FOOD PRODUCT

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which:

(complete (a), (b), or (c))

(a) ☐ is attached hereto.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed on the application filing date with a specification are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(1) name of inventor(s), and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration on filing;

"(2) name of inventor(s), and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

or

"(3) name of inventor(s), and title which was on the specification as filed."

Notice of July 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60).

(b) ☐ was filed on _____, as ☐ Serial No. 0 / _____
or ☐ _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO that contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.67.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456);

"(B) serial number and filing date;

"(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

"(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or

"(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 7th Ed.

(c) ☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/05698, filed on June 21, 2000 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 2 of 7)

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.67(b))

(complete the following where a supplemental declaration is being submitted)

- ☐ I hereby declare that the subject matter of the
- ☐ attached amendment
 - ☐ amendment filed on _____

was part of my/our invention and was invented before the filing date of the original application, above-identified, for such invention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56,

(also check the following items, if desired)

- ☒ and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and
- ☐ in compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)-(d))

NOTE: "The claim to priority need be in no special form and may be made by the attorney or agent if the foreign application is referred to in the oath or declaration as required by § 1.63. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) must be filed in the case of an interference (§ 1.630), when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner, when specifically required by the examiner, and in all other situations, before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by a petition requesting entry and by the fee set forth in § 1.17(f). If the certified copy is not in the English language, a translation need not be filed except in the case of interference; or when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner; or when specifically required by the examiner, in which event an English language translation must be filed together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate." 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☐ no such applications have been filed.
- (e) ☒ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the international application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
Germany	199 32 836.6	14 July 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING DATE

_____ / _____	_____
_____ / _____	_____
_____ / _____	_____

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER US/PCT APPLICATION(S)
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120

- ☐ The claim for the benefit of any such applications are set forth in the attached ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART (C-I-P) APPLICATION.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 4 of 7)

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

(list name and registration number)

4. Robert H. Bachman (19,374), Gregory P. LaPointe (28,395),
Barry L. Kelmacher (29,999), and George A. Coury (34,309),
all of Bachman & LaPointe, P.C., 900 Chapel Street, Suite
1201, New Haven, CT 06510-2802
(check the following item, if applicable)

- ☒ I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
- ☐ Attached, as part of this declaration and power of attorney, is the authorization of the above-named practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
(Name and telephone number)

☒ Address
Bachman & LaPointe, P.C.
900 Chapel Street, Suite 1201
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

Gregory P. LaPointe
(203) 777-6628

☐ Customer Number _____

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SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: *Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all the inventors. Section 1.63(a)(3) requires that a declaration/oath, inter alia, identify each inventor and prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of the executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,142, October 10, 1997,*

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<u>Christof</u> (GIVEN NAME)	<u>Stimpfl</u> (MIDDLE/INITIAL OR NAME)	<u>Stimpfl</u> FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
Inventor's signature <u>Christof Stimpfl</u>		
Date <u>April 1, 2002</u>	Country of Citizenship <u>Germany</u>	
Residence <u>Hoferweg 2, D-88267 Vogt, GERMANY</u> <u>DEX</u>		
Post Office Address <u>same as above</u>		

 (GIVEN NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME) FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
 Inventor's signature _____
 Date _____ Country of Citizenship _____
 Residence _____
 Post Office Address _____

 (GIVEN NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME) FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
 Inventor's signature _____
 Date _____ Country of Citizenship _____
 Residence _____
 Post Office Address _____

(Ref. 79-499 Pub 605) **FORM 1-1** **1-10**

(check proper box(es) for any of the following added page(s)
that form a part of this declaration)

- ☐ **Signature** for fourth and subsequent joint inventors. *Number of pages added* _____

* * *

- ☐ **Signature** by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. *Number of pages added* _____

* * *

- ☐ **Signature** for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. *Number of pages added* _____

* * *

- ☐ Added page for **signature** by one joint inventor on behalf of deceased inventor(s) where legal representative cannot be appointed in time. (37 CFR 1.47)

* * *

- ☐ Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (C-I-P) application.

☐ *Number of pages added* _____

* * *

- ☐ Authorization of practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

* * *

(if no further pages form a part of this Declaration,
then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item)

- ☒ This declaration ends with this page.